

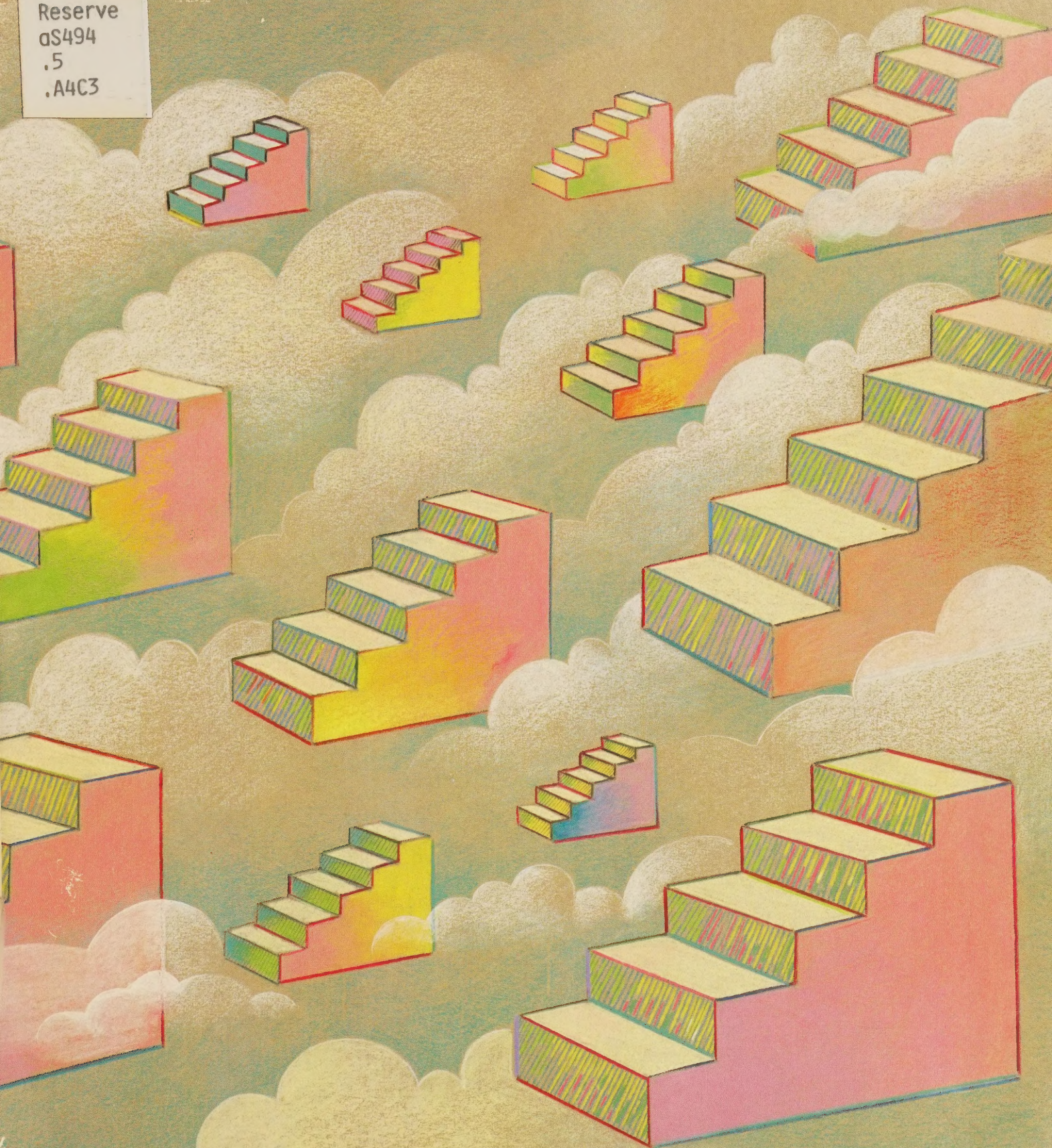
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"CAREERS FOR YOU IN USDA"

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“CAREERS FOR YOU IN USDA”



Careers for You in the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Broad Responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) serves all of us every day. It works to improve farm income, to assure consumers of an adequate food supply at reasonable prices, and to expand overseas markets for U.S. farm products.

The Department works to safeguard the wholesomeness of our food supply through continuous inspection of food processing plants, and assures food quality through voluntary food grading services.

Through nutrition education, USDA helps consumers choose nourishing foods and get the most for their food dollars. It also helps millions of Americans enjoy better diets through food assistance programs.

The Department's widespread research makes a significant contribution to our standard of living. The research covers food and nutrition, animal disease and pest control, crop production, marketing and the use of agricultural products, food safety, and environmental quality. Directly or indirectly, the findings from such research benefit all Americans.

USDA protects the environment by helping farmers and other rural landowners conserve energy, soil, water, and forest resources; it also helps developing countries improve their food production. USDA programs in the fields of rural development, housing assistance, and conservation are key elements in carrying out national growth policies.

How It Started

USDA was created in 1862 by an act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln. A little more than 25 years later, USDA became the eighth executive Department to achieve Cabinet rank. In the early days, the Department served a population engaged primarily in agriculture as a livelihood.

A farmer in Lincoln's time produced only enough farm products to supply him/herself and three or four additional persons.

Today's Department serves a nation in which less than 3 percent of the population lives on farms. But it is also a nation in which an agricultural worker provides food and fiber for 57 other persons in the United States and 18 other persons in the export market.



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Relationship to Land-Grant Colleges

In 1862, Congress passed the Morrill Act, establishing the system of land-grant colleges in the Nation. The Act donated 11 million acres of public lands to the States and territories to provide colleges to support the agricultural and mechanical arts.

But because of racial separation in the South, blacks were not permitted to attend the new institutions. Following the Civil War, however, several black institutions similar to the white land-grant schools were established in Southern States, but were given only limited support by the States.

To overcome this problem, Congress passed the second Morrill Act, in 1890, specifically to support the black land-grant schools. Thus, the schools are referred to as the "1890 Institutions." In addition, those Southern States which did not have a black land-grant school at the time established one under the second Morrill Act. Today, there are 16 "1890 Institutions" plus Tuskegee Institute, as well as the 71 other land-grant colleges in the 50 States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.



In 1887, Congress authorized an agricultural experiment station in each State and territory. In 1914, it established the Cooperative Extension Service for each State to spread the findings of agricultural and home economics research to farmers and the general public.

These acts were followed by others to strengthen college teaching, research, and Extension activities of the States. The land-grant colleges and experiment stations in cooperation with the Department have made American agriculture the most productive in the world, and the consumer's food supply one of the least expensive as a proportion of disposable income.



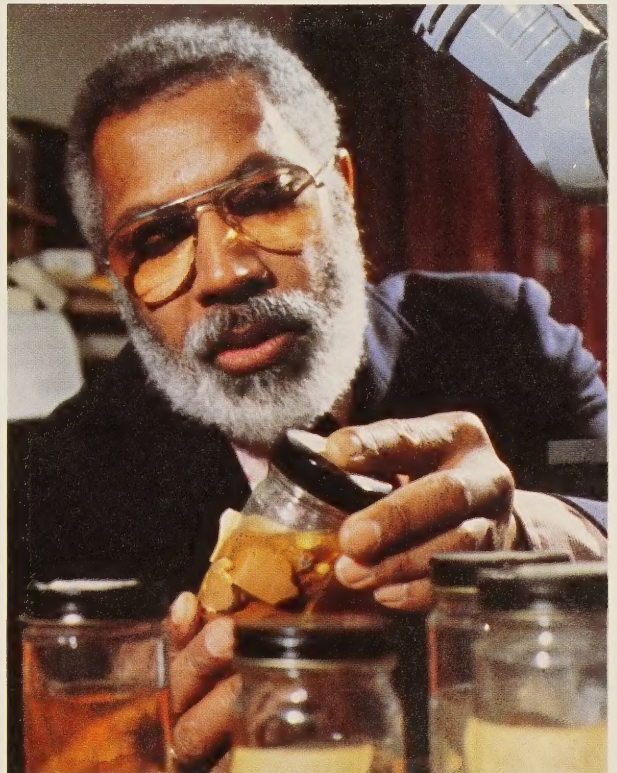
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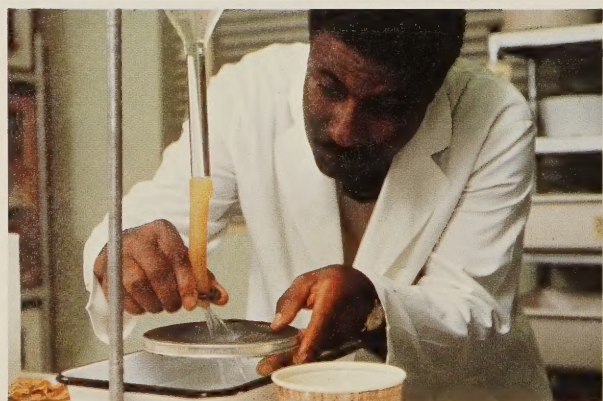
An Equal Opportunity Employer

All appointments and promotions to career positions in USDA are based on competitive standards. This policy insures that all persons who are qualified have an equal chance to obtain a position. Selections and promotions are based on merit without regard to race, color, sex, marital status, handicap, religion, age, national origin, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit considerations.

Qualifications for positions with USDA are determined by educational background, previous work experience, and when appropriate, scores on examinations administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

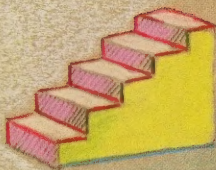
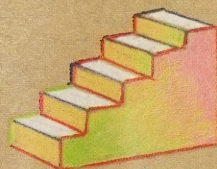
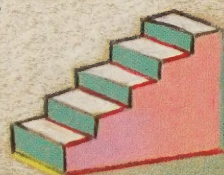
USDA is committed to improving the employment and career opportunities of women and minorities in Government today through its Affirmative Action Programs.

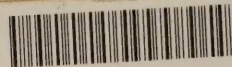






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